THE IMPORTANCE OF *ANESTHESIA PROGRESS* TO DENTAL ANESTHESIOLOGY

When the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology (ADSA) was founded in 1953, Dr Harcourt Stebbins was the editor of the *NewsMonthly*, a hand-typed monthly newsletter that kept the fledgling organization informed. When Dr Stebbins joined the military, Dr Arthur Follenius, the secretary-treasurer, became a guest editor in October 1955 until Dr Bruce Douglas was appointed editor in December 1955.

In January 1958, the *NewsMonthly* became the *Journal of the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology* and, as the name implied, it transitioned from a newsletter to a more scientifically oriented journal. In April 1961, Dr J. D. Whisenand became the next editor until Dr Norman Triegeer succeeded him in September 1965.

Dr Triegeer again changed the journal in January 1966 to its current name, *Anesthesia Progress*. When Dr Triegeer was elected President of the ADSA in 1983, he appointed Dr Raymond Dionne as the next editor after serving almost 18 years in that capacity. Both Dr Triegeer and Dr Dionne markedly improved the scientific quality of the publication during their tenures. In 1990, Dr John Yagiela was appointed as the next editor and served through 1995. Your current editor followed Dr Yagiela in 1996 and has continued as editor for the past 19 years.

When I started my tenure as editor, I felt that writing an editorial for each issue should be initiated, and that became a priority in my life for the next 75 editorials. In the summer of 2006, we initiated the "Continuing Education" article in every issue, directed by Dr Dan Becker, who has done a marvelous job. The Continuing Education section was recently named in honor of Dr Triegeer, who was a lifetime anesthesia educator and ADSA leader. We expanded the scope of our readership by becoming the official journal of the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists, the Australian Society of Dental Anaesthesiology, the Canadian Academy of Dental Anaesthesia, the European Federation for the Advancement of Anaesthesia in Dentistry, and the International Federation of Dental Anesthesiology Societies.

I recently reread my first editorial in 1996 where I explained my 3 goals for the journal as the new editor: (a) to improve the efficiency of the then-current paper process of submission and review of articles, (b) to increase the quantity and quality of submissions, and (c)

to publish every issue on time. I believe that during the last 19 years as your editor, I have accomplished all 3 of my goals. Upon my appointment, we selected Allen Press as our new publisher, and they have been a wonderful partner in publishing *Anesthesia Progress*. They have supplied us with many publication professionals too numerous to name here, but who know that their vital contributions have been greatly appreciated. We are now a paperless journal with electronic submissions, electronic peer reviews, and electronic proofreading. Every issue of *Anesthesia Progress* and every issue of its forerunners, starting with Volume 1, Number 1, 1954, has now been forever electronically preserved in the PubMed archive. I encourage you to look at some of the interesting articles as our specialty has evolved, such as the development of closed chest cardiac compressions. In the January 1961 issue, Dr Douglas reported, "A revolutionary new idea is presented in the article entitled, 'Closed Chest Cardiac Massage' abstracted on page 4 of this issue. Every dentist using general anesthesia should be thoroughly familiar with this technique." Electronic access to all issues of our journal is free to all subscribers and all but the most recent 2 issues are free to the public. Like any major change, the transition to paperless was not easy and not without a few organizational problems, but with the help of my former assistant, Mary Young, and my current assistant, Robbi Hall, we managed to forge ahead and make it work for us. Additionally, Dr Ken Reed has been a very helpful assistant editor and leader of the volunteer peer reviewers whose efforts were greatly appreciated. Thus our first goal was achieved, as we are considerably more efficient in every aspect of the journal.

As we have gained international exposure in the new electronic age, the number and quality of submissions has markedly increased. We have been able to be more discriminating with our publications, which is good for the journal but perhaps not so good for those whose articles did not add enough significant new knowledge to compete for space in our publication. Hopefully those authors will be inspired to try again with an improved submission in the future. Thus our second goal of increased quantity and quality of submissions has been realized.

Finally, with the help of our entire team, every issue of *Anesthesia Progress* has been mailed on time. *Anesthesia Progress* has been a labor of love, but as with all good things in life, the time has come for your editor to retire from this honored position and to help smooth the transition to the next editor.

I am pleased to announce that after careful consideration of many highly qualified candidates, your president, Dr Kosinski, with the approval of the ADSA Board of Directors, has appointed Dr Steven Ganzberg, DMD, MS, as the new editor of *Anesthesia Progress*. Steve is a brilliant dentist anesthesiologist whom I had the pleasure to mentor during his anesthesiology residency at Ohio State, and I have great trust that he will set his own goals with his own team and continue to improve the journal to the next level.

Steve has indicated that he understands the tremendous benefits of *Anesthesia Progress* in keeping the membership informed of the latest developments in the field of anesthesia, sedation, and pain control in dentistry and in providing a home for dentists, especially those in academic positions, to publish their research in anesthesiology for the benefit of all of dentistry. Since medical anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists have no dentally related educational or accreditation requirements and, in most cases, minimal experience in providing local anesthesia, minimal sedation, moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia for dental cases, particularly involving open-airway techniques, research publi-

cations in this area will be essentially dependent on the efforts of the dental profession. Our journal is the best vehicle for dissemination of this new knowledge to those who need it the most because we do it regularly. Not only will this advance our specialty, but it will also assist our academicians to achieve promotion and tenure and be available to teach future generations of dentists.

It has indeed been a pleasure to have served you as your editor. I am so grateful that my mentors, who are all past presidents of the ADSA, Drs. Morgan Allison, Wayne Hiatt, and William Wallace, got me involved with the ADSA by leading the way. I wish to recognize the sacrifices that my wife, Barbara, has endured over these many years in order for me to participate in this endeavor. Finally, I am also extremely grateful to the ADSA Board of Directors for their enthusiastic support of *Anesthesia Progress*, and I know that they will continue to fully support the next editor. Please welcome Dr Steve Ganzberg as your new editor.

Joel M. Weaver, DDS, PhD
Anesthesia Progress